

CLARETIAN MISSIONARIES

PROVINCE OF BANGALORE

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REV. FR. JAMES NADACKAL, CMF 12.12.1956 - 09.10.2023

The Claretian family, especially the Province of Bangalore, is deeply saddened at the sudden and shocking loss of Fr. James Nadackal, an ardent and devout missionary.

Fr. James was born on 12 December 1956 at Valachira, Kaduthurithy, Kerala as the 4th of 6 children of Mr. Chandy (Chacko) and Mrs. Elikutty Nadackal. The family migrated to Vayattuparmbu, Kannur in 1965. His Father, Mr. Chandy (Chacko) entered his eternal reward in 1988. His beloved mother, Mrs. Elikutty, 92, lives today healthy to her age.

Fr. James was a true Claretian Missionary, a true Son of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary. A Son of the Immaculate Heart of Mary is a man on fire with love... There was in Fr. James this fire of love which he spread wherever he went. As a young aassistant parish priest at Changanachery Cathedral, as the one who was in charge of our printing press, as an overseas missionary in Philippines, East Timor and Australia, as a formator and rector in seminaries, as the first Claretian parish priest in St. Xaviers' Church, Valiathura and later as parish priest of St. Thomas Church, Jalahalli, he spread the flames of love. Nothing daunted him. His resolve to be of help to people in need and his desire to strengthen people in faith made him to plan things well in advance and execute them for the growth of the parish and those other responsibilities entrusted to him.

As a true son of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Fr. James had two qualities which our founder St. Anthony Mary Claret had in his life - Love for the Eucharist and filial love towards Mother Mary. Fr. James gave paramount importance to the Holy Eucharist. He celebrated the Holy Mass with much devotion and reverence.



As an ardent devotee of Blessed Virgin Mary, in his life he always carried rosary wherever he went, and rosary was his constant companion. Wherever he worked, he encouraged others and brought them to love Blessed Virgin Mary.

As we look at the life of Fr. James Nadackal, we could find that his heart melted when he found people in need and he helped them generously. He listened patiently to the issues and problems of those in distress and spent his time and energy for them.



Vocational Journey and Ministries:

After completing his schooling, James joined the Claretian Minor Seminary at Kuravilangad in June 1973 and made his First Religious Profession in the Claretian Congregation on 31 May 1977 and his Perpetual Religious Profession on 31 May 1982.

- He was ordained a Priest on 28 December 1983 and for a year served as the assistant parish priest at Changanachery Cathedral, Kerala.
- From June 1985 to May 1986 he was at Claret Bhavan Carmelaram and then for two years he was at Claretian Seminary Malleswaram as the Director of Claretian Press.
- From 1988 to 1997 Fr. James was at the service of the then Philippines Province and worked in pastoral ministry in the Philippines, East Timor and Australia.
- He returned to India in 1997 and from 1997 to 1998, for a year he was in our community at Vaithiri, Waynad.
- From June 1998 to May 2000 he served as the Parish Priest of St. Xavier's Church Valiathura in Trivandrum Diocese.
- From June 2000 to May 2004 he was at Claret Villa Shillong Seminary and served as the Vicar and Administrator.
- From June 2004 to May 2007 Fr. James was the Rector of Claretian Seminary, Malleswaram, Bangalore.
- Then from 2007 to 2009 he was at Claretian Ashram Wardha, our Philosophy House, as its Vice Rector.

- For one year from 2009 to 2010 he was the Administrator of our house at Angamali, Kerala.
- From June 2010 to May 2013 he served as the Director and Administrator of Claret Nivas, Carmelaram.
- From June 2013 to May 2016 he served as the Parish Priest of St. Thomas Church Jalahalli.
- From June 2016 to May 2017 Fr. James was the Assistant Novice Master at Claret Bhavan, Carmelaram.
- From June 2017 to May 2022, for five years, Fr. James served as the Director and Administrator of Claret Nivas, Carmelaram.
- Fr. James' last appointment, from June 2022, was at Anthony Claret Estate at Coorge as its Director.

From 1983 to 2023, Fr. James' priestly ministry lasted for almost 40 years. It has been 40 years of grace, committed and faithful service. Fr. James served the church and the congregation in diverse roles as pastor, administrator and formator.

Fr. James touched the lives of countless individuals with his gentle, loving, and compassionate spirit. He was a very gentle and affectionate priest. He derived the strength for ministry from his deep personal prayer. He leaves behind a legacy of faith, kindness, and unwavering devotion to his calling.

Eternal Rest grant unto him, O Lord and let Your Perpetual Light shine upon him! May he rest in peace. Amen.

FORMATION

CLARET NIKETAN, BELAGAVI

Spreading the Word through Art

The candidates at our Minor Seminary, Claret Niketan Belagavi, had the opportunity to participate in the

diocese level competition on Parables of Jesus on 29 October 2023. Diocese of Belgaum had organised Dance & Drama Competition on Parables of Jesus for different youth groups from various deaneries of the diocese. Our own priests, trained in Indian Classical Dance form,







Frs. Isidore Toppo and Hirudayaraj, assisted our candidates in preparing for the competition. Participating among 29 groups, our seminarians did well and secured a consolation price. For the aspiring Claretians this was a great opportunity to learn our charismatic ways of spreading the Gospel.

CARMELARAM, NOVITIATE HOUSE

Celebrating the Claretian Spirit

As the Congregation marks its 175th year of spreading the Flame of the Spirit in the Church, Claret Bhavan Carmelaram Novitiate community had an intense preparation in view the feast of our founder, Father Claret. The intensive preparation started on 27 September and lasted till 23 October 2023, each novice taking turn in preparing a special theme each day.



The formators inspired and guided the novices in preparing different themes for reflections and learning. Besides the spiritual preparations, the novices also engaged in learning the Claretian documents, history of the congregation, the charism and the present happenings around the congregation. All these then was showcased through a two-day long Claretian quiz competition among the novices. Thus making it a deep learning from the heritage of the congregation. The



solemnity of Claret Feast was presided by Fr. Sabu Koottarappallil, the Provincial Superior; many religious and well-wishers too joined for the festive celebration.

MALLESWARAM, CLARETIAN SEMINARY

Diaconate Ordination

On the eve of the Inauguration of 175th year of Foundation of Claretian Missionaries, 15 July 2023, the Province of Bangalore had the joy of celebrating the Diaconate Ordination. Five Students, three from Province of Bangalore, one from Delegation of Kolkata and one from the congregation of Sons of the Divine Providence (FDP), were conferred the Order of Diaconate by Most Rev. Peter Machado, Archbishop of Bangalore at Claretian Seminary, Malleswaram.



A large number of Claretian Fraternity along with other neighbouring priests and religious, friend and relatives of the ordinandi participated in the solemn celebration. During the homily, Archbishop emphasized the ecclesiastical service and the synodality that the deacons are called to practice along with the missionary zeal of Father Claret.

Academic Excellence

On 20 June 2023, during the 44th Convocation Day of St. Peter's Pontifical Institute Bengaluru, Student Seru Sagar, CMF was awarded the First Rank for his Final B.Th. Studies. Seru Sagar stood first among his companions with an overall aggregate of 87.560%.





PASTORAL AND SOCIAL MINISTRY

BARIKHAJURI, ST. PETER'S CHURCH

You are not Alone - Widows' Fellowship

St. Peter's Parish Barikhajuri organized a day of fellowship for the Widows of the parish on 9 July 2023. Sisters of the Destitute collaborating in the parish took the initiative in organizing the programme in which 78 women participated.



This fellowship gathering was aimed at showing concern and support towards these women who otherwise face difficulties in their daily lives due to social stigma and economic concerns. The fellowship seminar helped the women through motivation, encouragement and the parish bonding to face the challenges of life with courage and determination.

BARWADIH, ST. CLARET CHURCH

Patron's Feast Day

St Claret Parish Barwadih celebrated the feast of the Patron, St. Anthony Mary Claret, on 22 October. The whole parish community prepared for the annual feast through novena to Father Claret. As the parish comprises of many faithful residing in different villages and being engaged in their daily activities of farming during the



day, the novena celebrations were held in the evenings to facilitate maximum participation. Fr. Prabhat Tara, CMF, director of Claretian Communication Centre Ranchi presided the Festive Eucharist and exhorted the faithful to follow the inspiration of Father Claret. This being the annual feast of the parish, the faithful came in large numbers and enthusiastically participated in the festivities.

BUTIBORI, ST. CLARET CHURCH

Founder's Feast and Sacraments

St. Claret Church Butibori celebrated the feast of the Founder and Patron, St. Anthony Mary Claret,



on 15 October 2023. Most. Rev. Elias Gonsalves, the Archbishop of Nagpur presided the solemn celebration



and administered the Sacrament of First Holy Communion to nine children and Confirmation to seven during the Holy Eucharist. Along with the faithful of the parish, the religious from Neighbouring communities and well-wishers participated in the festive celebration.

DODDABALAPURA, ST. PETER'S CHURCH

Marian Devotion and Mission Sunday

Month of October is full of activities in the parishes especially in view of Rosary month and Mission month.





PASTORAL AND SOCIAL MINISTRY

People wait with devotion to welcome Mother Mary in procession to their homes and then to celebrate the Mission Sunday. The parishes to make use of the opportunity to promote the popular devotion and the pilgrimages and the mission activities. St. Peter's Church Doddabalapura was no exception to this. Parish celebrated the Rosary month with devotion in families and at the parish level.



On 12 November 2023 the parish celebrated the Mission Sunday with a lot of missionary enthusiasm. Besides the Eucharistic celebration, there was mission auction and sports and games for the interaction of the people. It was a real communion in mission as all, young and old participated actively with missionary generosity.

GAURIBIDANUR, PROJECT VISION

International World Sight Day

On the occasion of World Sight Day, 12 October 2023, in its effort to raise awareness and care for the visually impaired, The Project Vision Rural Eye-Care campus



conducted a "Blind Walk" at Kortagere taluk in Tumkur district. Around 150 participated and thousands of people witnessed the Blind Walk.

International World sight Day is an annual event held on the second Thursday of October to raise awareness about blindness and vision impairment. It emphasizes the importance of eye health and encourages individuals, communities, and governments to take action to ensure that everyone has access to essential eye care service. This year the World Sight Day theme was LOVE YOUR EYES AT WORK.

JALAHALLI, ST. THOMAS FORANE CHURCH

Celebrating Mission Month

On 15 October 2023 CML Unit and students of Class XI of St. Thomas Forane Church Jalahalli visited the Prison Ministry of India unit in Carmelaram along with St. Vincent De Paul Society team. This was a unique opportunity for the students to learn about the lives



of marginalised kids and spend time with them. They interacted with the inmates through games, singing and having meals with them. They learned how Prison Ministry team and the Vincent De Paul team in different capacities try to better the lives of underprivileged people. The future years will witness these young missionaries contributing to the church in a much larger way.

KAILASAPURAM, VELANGANI MATHA CHURCH

World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly

On Sunday, 23 July 2023, Velankanni Matha Parish, Kailasapuram, Visakhapatnam celebrated the day of "Grandparents and the Elderly". The celebration was solemnized with the festive Eucharist, during which special prayers were offered for the grandparents, elderly and the sick.

Based on the theme of the year for the celebration, "His mercy is from age to age", parish priest, Fr. Santhosh, highlighted the importance of the day that the Spirit of



the Lord accompanies every fruitful encounter between different generations, especially between the young and the elderly. During the celebration the parish



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community was blessed with the moments of such fruitful encounters.

The participants not only expressed their joy and thanked the parish priest for arranging such joyous encounter but also shared their past memories of how they actively participated in the growth of the parish church. The parish youth happily made the necessary arrangements and helped the elders and the sick to come to the church and get back to their homes safely. The celebration was concluded with sharing of gifts with the elders.

T. DASARAHALLI, SS JOSEPH AND CLARET CHURCH

Sports for Unity

ACYA, Joseph and Claret youth Association of Dasarahalli Parish conducted Battledore 2.0 an intra-Parish Badminton Tournament on 29 October 2023.



The event was conducted by the youth to energise the communion in the Parish. 16 teams from various wards of the parish participated in this single round knockout tournament.

It was a fun filled day where the parishioners gathered together to support the players with a competitive spirit. St. Chavara ward won the first prize, second prize was won by St. Mary's ward, and the third prize by St. George ward. Together with the event, the youth also had arranged very interesting food stalls to make it more participative.

Blood Donation Camp

Saints Joseph and Claret Parish Dasarahalli, Pithruvedhi (Association of fathers) celebrated the Pithruvedhi day on 5 November 2023 by arranging a blood donation camp in association with St. Philomena's Hospital Bengaluru. Many parishioners willingly came forward and donated



blood. The hospital staff thanked the parishioners and Pithruvedhi members for their readiness to support this noble task.

YOUTH AND VOCATION MINISTRY

National Youth Day Celebration

National Youth Sunday was celebrated with enthusiasm and fervour across various Claretian parishes in the province on Sunday, 13 August 2023. Approximately 400 youths from different parishes gathered in their respective places to reflect upon the theme, "Children obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." The event aimed to emphasize the importance of obedience to parents while empowering the youth to integrate the virtue of obedience into their lives.

The National Youth Day celebration was celebrated in the most of the parishes with Holy Eucharist and



other prayer services. Some parishes also organized meaningful discussions and group activities for the youth, based on the theme of the day to make it more interactive. Some of them also made use of the opportunity to raise awareness about the social and national issues.

Thus, the National Youth Sunday organized at Claretian parishes/institutions served as a platform for the youth to gather, reflect, and learn about the importance of obeying parents within the context of their faith. Through interactive sessions, expert inputs, and empowering activities, participants were equipped with a deeper understanding of obedience and its role in fostering strong family bonds. The event successfully inspired the youth to embrace obedience as a virtue and integrate it into their lives as they continue to grow in their spiritual journey.





Seminar on Student Leadership

The first ever interschool leadership seminar for the students of schools of Province of Bangalore was held from 15 to 18 July 2023 at CHAI (Catholic Health Association of India) Training Centre Medchal, Hyderabad. 63 students, accompanied by 10 teachers from 10 schools attended the seminar.



The seminar focused on the need for quality leadership based on values and the need to be a leader in one's own surrounding. Through various interactive activities



the seminar focused on student leadership role. The participants also enjoyed an outing and leisure time at nearby Ramoji Film City. The seminar proved to be a unique experience for CLARETINES from different states, languages, religions and cultures to unite as a family. Fr. Benny Mathew, the coordinator for Education Ministry in the province animated and organized the seminar.

BUTIBORI, ST. CLARET SCHOOL

A Salute to Our Roots- Grandparents' Day

Grandparents are the family's greatest treasure, the founders of a loving legacy, the greatest storytellers, and the keepers of tradition. Grandparents are the family's strongest foundation. Through their special love and care, grandparents keep a family close to heart.





To recognize and honour their contribution in the growth of the children, St. Claret School Butibori celebrated Grandparents Day on 16 September 2023. The grandparents of the students from Nursery to Class V were invited for the celebration; in which over 450 grandparents participated. The celebration involved with participants engaging in various activities and games that strengthened the bond between the grandparents and their grandchildren. Students paid special tribute to the grandparents. The school also organized a free medical checkup for the grandparents with the support of Asha Hospital and Primary Health Center, Borkhedi. It was evident that all participants enjoyed the day making memories that will last a lifetime. The grandparents appreciated and shared their views on the school's effort to make a connection between the generations through this event.

Seva Activity

While we spread the message of equality and empowerment, we cannot live as if the poor and the marginalized did not exist. In keeping with the Claretian responsibility towards vulnerable of the society, St. Claret School Butibori has initiated a unique programme





called SEVA, starting from the academic year 2023-24. This aims at helping the poor and the needy people of our society including institutions like poor village schools, home for the differently abled, old age homes and orphanages.



The students and staff from all the classes, Nursery to class X, will be participating in the activity. SEVA is a school wide programme for students helping embed human values, sharing and encourage them to be socially responsible. It is a monthly community-based activity to put the school's values into action. Every month one of the classes prepares itself for the activity, which include the fund collection from the student community to support a particular centre, they visit, organize awareness programmes, and cultural activities to bring smiles on the faces of inmates. The school has already undertaken few visits and scheduled few more visits in coming months.

CARMELARAM, INSTITUTE OF CONSECRATED LIFE-SANYASA

A Unique Formative Accompaniment Course

Bengaluru: For the second successive year, the Institute



of Consecrated Life – Sanyasa (ICLS), Bengaluru, organized Formative Accompaniment: Theory and Practicum (FATP-2023), a unique upskilling program for experienced formators as well as those taking babysteps in the ministry of formation. Twenty formators from various institutes participated in the FATP-2023, which consisted of a two-month-long online sessions

beginning in June 2023, followed by an 18-day intensive residential workshop from September 7 to 24.



The FATP residential segment consisted of two halves: the first half began with a world café exercise aimed at sharing of experiences in the ministry of formation, which was followed by a grounding in formative philosophy and dynamics, basic counselling skills, self-awareness, and rules of discernment. The second half sought an in-depth skilling in the theory and practice of six formative interventions modelled after the methodology of John Heron and supplemented with spiritual intervention skills. (This has been an adapted methodology pioneered by Frs. Paul Smyth and Mathew Vattamattam for the Claretian formators' course.) The learnings were further reinforced by analysis of case studies and movies displaying the said interventions. Finally, the participants enacted the various interventions, which were analysed threadbare, topping the skilling experience.

JALAHALLI, ANTHONY CLARET SCHOOL

Annual Day Celebrations

A very colourful and eventful activities marked the



Annual Day celebration 2023 of Anthony Claret School Jalahalli. The two day celebration was held on 30 August





and 01 September 2023. Fr. Sabu Koottarappallil, the Provincial Superior and Shri PGR Sindhya graced the celebrations as the Chief Guests on the first and the second day respectively. The display of talents by the students through captivating performances and immersive exhibitions thrilled the parents and the teachers with a sense of pride and accomplishment for students' achievements for the academic year 2022-23. The highlight of the celebrations was the Musical Drama "Mulan".

Teachers' Orientation

Anthony Claret School Jalahalli teachers enjoyed an introspective session with Rev Fr. Thomas Thennadiyil,



Principal St Claret Degree College and Dr Arijit, Faculty St Claret Degree College as a follow up on the orientation programme conducted for teachers at the beginning of the academic session. The highlight of this session was the use of role play by teachers depicting various real life scenarios that can crop up in any institution followed by reflective thinking and analysis of the situation. It covered various aspects of school life like inter personal relationship among staff and between staff and students and the power of influence that a teacher can have on his/her students.

JALAHALLI, ST. CLARET SCHOOL

Taluk Level Basketball

St. Claret School Jalahalli participated in the Taluk Level Basketball Tournament for U-14 Boys conducted by the Department of Public Education on 9 September 2023. The proud Basketball Boys team emerged as winners. The team also has been selected for District Level Tournament.



NCC Cadets Felicitated

The NCC Cadets of St. Claret School, Jalahalli successfully completed Certificate 'A' Examination. It was a proud moment for the students. Congratulations to 39 KAR



Battalion NCC Cadets on their success. They were felicitated by Principal, Rev. Fr. Abraham Patteril during the school assembly.

JALAHALLI, ST. CLARET COLLEGE

Face-to-Face: Rendezvous with a Champion

St. Claret College Jalahalli on 09 November 2023 launched a new initiative called "Face-to-Face: Claret's Rendezvous with a Champion". Face-to-Face is a platform for Claretines to engage in conversation with champions in leadership, business, arts, music, sports, etc., and learn from their drives, challenges, failures and triumphs. This initiative stands as a strong testimony



to St. Claret College's unique approach to education: learning beyond classrooms through diverse and manifold ways. The inaugural edition had as guest, Dr. Rajmohan Pillai, business tycoon and CEO of Beta Group of Companies. Three Claretines engaged the Champion businessman in a conversation on his life and business journeys. Some of the students from the audience of over 400 too asked questions. Dr. Pillai's sharing from his vast and diverse experiences motivated and inspired young Claretines who aspire to be entrepreneurs and successful leaders.



TEDx Claret College Talk Show

The first TEDx Claret College talk show on the theme, "Living with a Purpose" was organized at St. Claret College, Jalahalli on Friday, 10 November 2023. TEDx talk events are organized independently under a free license granted by New York based TED. It is a grassroots initiative, created in the spirit of TED's overall mission to research and discover "ideas worth spreading."



TEDx Claret College had six speakers: Mr. Milind Soman, Supermodel and Actor; Dr. Rajmohan Pillai, Business Tycoon and CEO of Beta Group; Lt. General P. G. Kamath, Veteran of Indian Army; Dr. Tahbit Ahmed, Cardiologist; Fr. George Kannanthanam, CMF, Social Activist; and Ms. Shruthi Reddy, Shark Tank India Finalist. The speakers narrated their inspiring personal stories of hard work, determination, setbacks, triumphs and altruism.

The event was a celebration of life and its purpose intertwined with cultural and artistic performances from Mr. Aakarsh, Illusionist and Mentalist; Mr. Rajeev Pulawar and team, Shadow Artists from Kerala; Mr. Abhishek N. S., Classical Singer; Mr. Arun Sriram, Standup Comedian; Ms. Rachana R. Karanik and team, Classical Dancers; and the Musical Band, Silence of Chaos.

RENEWAL PROGRAMMES

ASCLA West Inter-Council Meeting

The ASCLA West Major Superiors and Council Members came together for a three day meeting from 25 to 27 June 2023 at Claret Nivas Bengaluru. Total of 33 members from all the six major organisms of



conferences participated in the meeting to discuss key aspects of the joint ventures of the conference. One of the primary objective of the meeting was to finalise the ASCLA West Plan of Formation.

Annual Retreats



Province of Bangalore organized spiritual renewal for its members through annual retreats. The first batch of five day retreat was held from 11 to 15 July 2023 at Claret Nivas, Carmelaram. This also served as the timely preparation for the starting of 175th year of Foundation of our Congregation. Fr. Jijo Jose Manjackal, MSFS guided the retreat attended by 47 members of the province. Fr. Jijo inspired the participants through call narratives to understand and strengthen the missionary vocation.

The second batch of annual retreat of was held from 25 October to 02 November 2023 at Claret Nivas Carmelaram. Fr. Sebastian Vazhapalli, SJ directed the retreat integrating the dynamics of Claretian Spirituality and Religious Life. 46 members of the province participated in the retreat which helped them to enter into deep self-reflection and renew the Claretian and Religious Vocation.





RENEWAL PROGRAMMES

Claretian Discerning Leadership Workshop

Taking forward the congregational initiative of training the members in Discerning Leadership, ASCLA West



Conference hosted its second workshop of Claretian Discerning Leadership at Claret Nivas Carmelaram from 17 to 23 July 2023.

32 members, the council members and a few local superiors, from the five major organisms of India participated in this workshop held at Carmelaram, Bengaluru. Three of the members from the conference who had earlier undergone the training turned facilitators for this workshop, Fr. Anthony Bhyju (Major Superior of Kolkata Delegation), Fr. Siby Njavallikunnel



(Major Superior of St. Thomas Province) and Fr. Regi Pymattathil (from Province of Bangalore); Fr. Paulson Veliyannoor also assisted in animating one of the modules. In spite of his busy schedule, Fr. General too made himself available to address the participants virtually and inspire them during one of the sessions.

The workshop consisted of various modules of different aspects of leadership and discernment; such as contextual understanding, Jesus' way, Claretian key, personality dynamics, synodality, conflict transformation, polarity management, etc. The participants were assisted through input sessions, personal and group reflections as well as activities, some assessment tests and exercises. On the whole the workshop helped in understanding and building up effective leadership in the context of the Congregation and the Church.

Catechists' Revival Training

A Training Seminar for Catechists from Andhra-Telangana was held from 26 to 29 July 2023 at Bhattiprolu. 65 participants from 11 parishes from the region attended



the meeting. Fr. Kamal and Team from Warangal diocese animated the seminar. Topics like faith formation in the parishes, understanding the New Testament and the Old Testament, Sacraments, etc. were dealt in detail. The participants were grateful for the initiatives taken by the province.

Teachers' Seminar

Committed to offer quality education through its institutions, Province of Bangalore organised a four day seminar for the teachers of different schools of the province from 19 to 22 August 2023 at Dhyana Ashram Centre Medchal, Hyderabad. 45 teachers from 10 schools took advantage of the opportunity.



The prefect of apostolate and mission, Fr. Siby Eravimangalam along with Education Ministry coordinator, Fr. Benny Cheruthottupuram organised the programme aiming to qualify the teachers as mentors





RENEWAL PROGRAMMES

than mere teachers. Topics like Teachers to be Mentors, Classroom Management, Quest for Excellence, Compassion of Education, etc. were dealt during the seminar. Teachers were inspired to be moulders looking at every child as a possibility. Various group interactions and group works made the seminar more participative and lively. The participants also had an opportunity for cultural visit to the city. The coming together of the teachers from different schools of the province itself was a learning and encouraging factor of the seminar.

Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee

on 24 August 2023, Feast of Apostle Bartholomew, Province of Bangalore came together at Provincial Curia to thank God and to appreciate the members who celebrate their Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee during the year.

Frs. Irudayaswamy, Paulson Veliyannoor, Sebastian Theruvanmoola and Thomas Thennadiyil complete 25 years as priests. The jubilarians were grateful for the Claretian vocation and the gift of priesthood they shared in service of the people, especially in the field of education and pastoral ministry. Appreciating the jubilarians, Provincial Superior, Fr. Sabu Koottarappallil, recalled various ministries that these priests had undertaken in the province for the past 25 years and contributed to the growth of the province and enrichment of many a people. It was also an occasion to appreciate the sacrifices by families of the jubilarians



by offering their sons to God and the Church. The celebration was solemnized with the festive Eucharist and a fraternal meal attended by Claretian fraternity.

Synodal Discernment - General Assembly

Province of Bangalore, continuing its effort to discern together in synodal way, came together for the General Assembly. The assembly was held in two sessions, 4-7 and 25-28 October 2023, at Claret Nivas Carmelaram. The Provincial Superior, Fr. Sabu Koottarappallil, led the province in sharing, evaluation, discussions and



planning about the life and mission of the province. This assembly also marked the midterm of the present provincial government; thus making it more significant to make the necessary evaluation of the province's journey in the light of the X provincial chapter and XXVI general chapter.



Aging Gracefully

While we grow daily, growing gracefully requires conscious efforts. Recognizing the need of the hour, Province of Bangalore organized a seminar for members



who have completed the 60 years of age. 44 members from ASCLA West Conference participated in the seminar held at Claret Nivas Carmelaram from 09 to 11 October 2023. Fr. Joe Arimpoor, SDB and team animated the participants through interactive sessions and activities. For the participants, the opportunity proved to be a source inspiration in itself by coming together and reviving the initial vocational journey.